

**REPORT ON VISIT OF Dr. SHARAD SINGH NEGI, IFS (RETD.)
CHAIRMAN, UTTRAKHAND VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & MIGRATION COMMISSION &
FORMER DGF & SPECIAL SECRETARY, MOEFCC, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO
IFGTB COIMBATORE**

Dr. S.S. Negi, IFS (Retd.), Chairman, Uttarakhand Village Development & Migration Commission visited Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore on 02.08.18.

After a brief introduction by Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB, Dr. S.S. Negi, IFS (Retd.), was taken to Institute's Facilities. Dr. R. Yasodha, Head of Division, Plant biotechnology explained in detail on the activities of Molecular Genetics laboratory and ongoing projects funded by DBT. She also highlighted that division had undertaken research on sequencing the genome of two indigenous species viz., teak and sandal wood. A detailed briefing on technology development, field of application and commercialization of the ArborEasy™ DNA isolation kit was made. In the tissue culture laboratory, the activities on mass clonal propagation of teak were explained by Dr. Rekha Warriar.

In the Bioprospecting laboratory, Dr. S. Murugesan, Scientist-G & Group Coordinator Research detailed on the products developed by IFGTB in the recent years. Dr.N.Senthil Kumar, Head Bioprospecting division explained in detail on the various products developed and their utility. Dr. S.S.Negi appreciated the efforts and suggested to give more focus on product commercialisation and next stage processes rather than to develop more products.

Dr. S.S.Negi, also visited the Vegetative Multiplication Garden consisting of mother bed chambers with stock plants of Casuarinas, Acacias, Eucalypts, *Neolamarckia cadamba*, *Melia dubia* and Teak under intensive management conditions. Dr.Nicodemus explained on the process of selection of clones, licensing for nursery growers, generation of clonal propagules and supply to end users was explained.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Director, IFGTB made a brief presentation on the salient works carried out by IFGTB and proposed action plan vis-a-vis the National priorities. His presentation focussed on the products and technologies developed by IFGTB and efforts taken for popularising the technologies and proposed plan for transfer of technologies for various stake holders. During the interaction with the Heads of the Division, Officers and Scientists, Dr. S.S.Negi highlighted on need for international collaborations for expanding forestry research for quality and scalability and having a strong database management system. Similarly he also stressed pressing need to start working on 'Adaptation Research in forestry' under the Climate Fund to comply the commitments made by India with COP convention in Paris.

Later Dr. S.S.Negi, visited the Gass Forest Museum in the campus and was impressed by the quality of maintenance of the specimens and artefacts.



Left: Dr. R. Yasodha explaining the works carried out in Genomic Laboratory
Right: Dr. Rekha Warriar explaining the works carried out in Tissue Culture Lab



Left: Dr. S.S. Negi, IFS (Retd.), visiting Vegetative Multiplication Garden
Right: Dr. A. Nicodemus explaining on Clonal Propagation in Vegetative Multiplication Garden



Left: Dr. N. Senthil Kumar, explaining Bio products in Bio Prospecting Lab



Left : Dr. Mohit Gera making Institute presentation
Right: Dr. S.S. Negi, IFS (Retd.), addressing the gathering



Dr. S.S. Negi, IFS (Retd.), visiting Gass Forest Museum, Forest Campus, IFGTB